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Improving Trial Court Facilities: Fiscal Year 2009–2010 Funding Requests

Sutter—New Yuba City Courthouse

Imperial—New El Centro Family Courthouse
Lake—New Lakeport Courthouse
Monterey—New South Monterey County Courthouse
Riverside—New Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse
Sacramento—New Sacramento Criminal Courthouse
Shasta—New Redding Courthouse
Sonoma—New Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse

In April 2008, the Judicial Council updated its Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan that includes 152 new-construction, major renovation, and expansion projects estimated to cost \$9.3 billion (January 2008 dollars). The Initial funding request for these eight referenced projects was \$88.2 million for the 2009–2010 Fiscal Year, which would be funded by the Immediate and Critical Needs Account of the State Court Facilities Fund in proposed court revenue bond legislation Senate Bill 1407 (Perata). Their total project costs are estimated to be \$1.4 billion. If approved, these projects mark important progress toward implementing needed projects for trial courts across California.

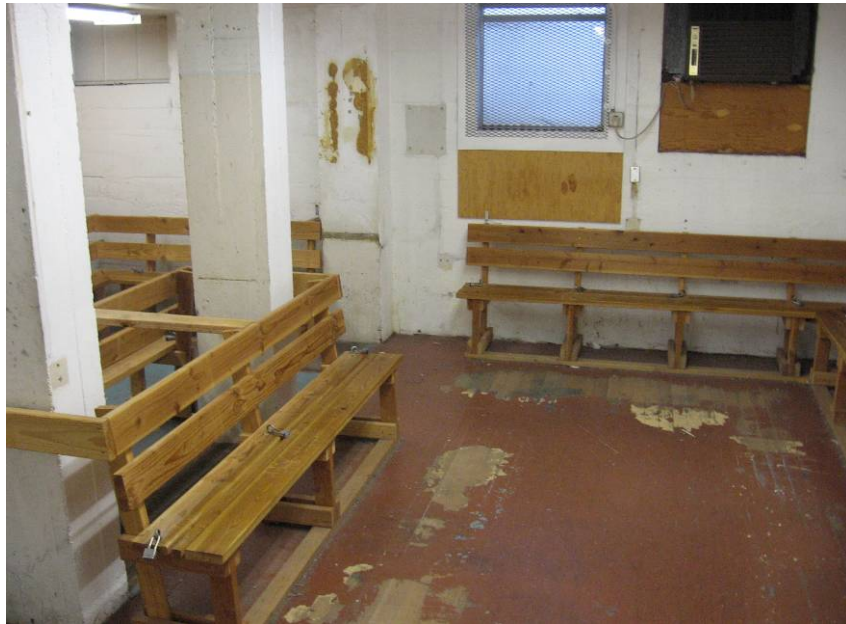
New Yuba City Courthouse

A new Yuba City Courthouse is proposed by the AOC for initial funding of \$5.2 million for FY 2009–2010. The new facility will house seven courtrooms. The estimated total cost for this courthouse of approximately 78,701 gross square feet is \$103.4 million (escalated to construction mid-point in Spring 2014). This project is ranked in the Immediate Need Project Priority Group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan and is one of the highest priority capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch.

Lack of Security, Severe Overcrowding, Poor Physical Conditions, and Reduced Access to Court Services

The Superior Court of California, County of Sutter serves the residents of Sutter County in the central business district of Yuba City. The existing facilities poorly serve the growing needs of the superior court, and the overall lack of basic security features causes unnecessary risk to the staff and public who use these buildings. The court operates out of two very old buildings owned by the county and one leased building. All three locations have significant security problems, severe accessibility deficiencies,

are very overcrowded, and have many physical problems, which prevent the court from providing safe and efficient court services to the public.



Holding Area is Not a Secure Enclosed Room. Prisoners are Chained to the Wooden Benches in This Room, Which was Designed as the County Printing Office.

Local Government and Organizations Collaborate on Project

The New Yuba City Courthouse project has a valuable economic opportunity of potentially receiving donated land for the court site from the County of Sutter. The property was set aside 25 years ago for court use, when the County developed a jail on an adjacent parcel. When the county jail was built several years ago, the county constructed an underground tunnel at basement level, leading towards the proposed court site. This tunnel was constructed with the intention that it would connect to the future courthouse basement.

Having a connection between the two buildings will make the transport of prisoners to and from court much easier. The option is endorsed by both court and county officials and is in keeping with court and county long-range facility goals.

Long-term Funding Needs

The California legislature is considering authorizing a revenue bond to pay for the state's most urgently needed court projects. This legislation proposes increasing criminal penalties and other filing fees to be contributed to the State Court Facilities Construction Fund for the sole purpose of funding court construction projects.

More Information

A project feasibility report for the New Yuba City Courthouse, dated July 1, 2008, was prepared by AOC staff. This report documents the poor functional and physical conditions of the existing Yuba City court facilities in Sutter County, explores options for how best to meet the needs of the court and of the public, and estimates the cost to construct a new facility. This document can be downloaded from the following Web site:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/pfr-sutter.pdf

For further information, please email the AOC-Office of Court Construction and Management at OCCM@jud.ca.gov.